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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 367

but that is a public place. There are different regulations for public and private places. But, you know, there's a lot of lead in some of those older homes so I don't know if there's a real plan at this time, but I appreciate that he has come up for it. But I think there are programs available, grant programs, that could be utilized for this. Anyway, that is my experience, and I'll return the rest of my time to the Chair.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Stuthman. Senator Jensen, on the Schrock amendment to the Chambers amendment.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. Members of the Legislature, I certainly do support Senator Chambers' amendment. Year before last, the Health Committee did tour some homes in the Omaha area, one that had gone through extensive remodeling to remove the lead, another one with the family still living there that had been tested and found that this was a family with small children that had a higher lead level than they need. It's interesting that this is an environmental issue that, if not treated, becomes an educational issue, because if you've got a child that has lead poisoning you have a slow learner, sometimes even more than that, that then we use special education funds to take care of, and not only for a short period of time but many times a lifetime. So it's something that needs to be addressed. It's one of those things that lead abatement really doesn't cost; it pays. I mean, we don't have any choice. It has to be done. And there are a lot of issues out there. Certainly the Gould Battery Plant in Omaha, ASARCO, and there's a suit that's just being filed against ASARCO, by the city of Omaha, who certainly was a contributor to the lead situation that we had. But typically in these homes the lead is coming from lead-based paint. It's come...the dust comes from the windows. Every time you raise and lower a window, some dust comes off and it comes into the home and there have been vacuum cleaners that will even help with this problem. But each home, by the way, looks to be costing 8 to 10 thousand dollars, so we're talking about 30 homes that we can treat here. I don't know what the time period is. Senator Chambers, do you know when the federal money could be anticipated to kick back in again?